

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2004. Claims 18-31 were examined in the Office Action whereby claims 18-31 were rejected and claims 1-17, and 32-38 were withdrawn from consideration due to restriction requirements and provisional elections. Claims 18 and 26 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and examination in view of the following remarks.

Substance of Interview Summary

A telephonic interview occurred between the undersigned, Murrell Blackburn, Examiner Dennis G. Bonshock, and Primary Examiner Raymond Bayerl on Wednesday, May 12, 2004. The interview covered the rejections to claims 18, 19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Freivald et al (US 5,983,268, hereinafter "Freivald").

The Examiner conceded that the claim 18 element of "determining whether a first computer command should be displayed" may not be present in Freivald. With regard to claims 19 and 26, dependent claim 19 further outlines elements included as part of "determining whether a first computer command should be displayed" in claim language as outlined in independent claim 26. Thus, the Examiner conceded that the claim elements of claims 19 and 26 may also not be present in Freivald. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the arguments made by the undersigned had merit, however further examination is still required.

This written response is thus, submitted in follow-up to the telephonic interview for consideration by the Examiner, as it is believed to have placed the application in condition for allowance.

Election/Restrictions

Applicants hereby affirm the provisional election of claims 18-31 for examination. Applicants also acknowledge authorization of the Examiner's Amendment of February 18, 2004.

Claim Objections

Claim 18 was objected to because of grammatically incorrect informalities. In response, appropriate correction has been made in the form of amended claim 18.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 18-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102 as being anticipated by Freivald et al., Patent No. 5,983,268 (Freivald). Applicants respectfully submit that Freivald does not teach each and every feature of Applicants' claims 18-31.

Claim 18

Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended independent claim 18 is drawn to a method of creating a Web query in a spreadsheet application program by copying a tabular data object from a first electronic file open in a Web browser program to a second electronic file open in the spreadsheet application program. The method comprises, among other features, the steps of (1) determining whether a first computer command should be displayed, (2) in response to determining that the first computer command should be displayed, inserting the first computer command in a drop-down menu associated with the spreadsheet application program, and (3) selecting the first computer command.

As briefly discussed above, Freivald does not teach each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended claim 18. In particular, Freivald does not mention, nor does the Office Action assert that Freival teaches, (1) determining whether any command should be displayed. The Office Action states, citing column 12, lines 7-25 in support, that "Freivald teaches being able to select, and selecting a command of the refreshable web query from the spreadsheet application." Applicants respectfully disagree and assert that cited section of Freivald does not mention a command, let alone selecting a command from the spreadsheet application. Freivald teaches allowing a user to input registration information, such as a URL, via an applet for a change detection tool. (See Freivald, col 12, lines 7-25). However, inputting registration information does not teach or suggest (1) determining whether a first computer command should be displayed, (2) in response to determining that the first computer command should be displayed, inserting the first computer command in a drop-down menu associated with

the spreadsheet application program, and (3) selecting the first computer command as recited in Applicants' amended claim 18. Thus, amended claim 18 is allowable over Freivald.

Claim 19

Applicants' claimed invention as recited in claim 19 is drawn to the method of claim 1, wherein determining whether a first computer command should be displayed includes, among other features, (1) determining whether the Web browser program supports a first format and (2) if the determination is that the Web browser program supports a first format, then determining whether a first identifier tag associated with the tabular data object has been set to a first value. The Office Action asserts that "Freivald further teaches determining whether the web browser program supports a first format, and cites column 11, lines 7-12 in support. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion and submit that Freivald does not contemplate determining formats that a web browser can support. To the contrary, Freivald teaches that the format of a Web page does not matter. (See column 11, lines 9-12). Thus, for at least this reason, claim 19 is also allowable over Freivald.

Claim 26

Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended claim 26 is drawn to computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for creating a Web query by copying a plurality data objects from a first electronic file open in a Web browser program to a second electronic file open in a spreadsheet program. The computer-executable instructions operative, when executed by a computer, to cause the computer to perform, among other features, the steps of (1) determining whether the plurality of data comprises a first format and (2) upon determining that the plurality of data comprises the first format, determining whether an identifier tag associated with the plurality of data has been set to a first value. The Office Action again cites column 11, lines 7-12 in support of an assertion that Freivald teaches determining whether the plurality of data comprises a first format. As described above, with respect to claim 19, Freivald teaches that the format of a Web page does not matter. Thus, Applicants' amended claim 26 is also allowable over Freivald.

Dependent Claims

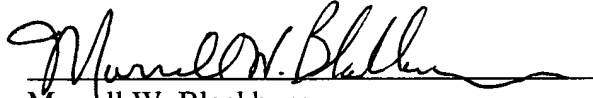
Because claims 19-25 and 27-31 respectfully inherit the language of amended claims 18 and 26, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 19-25 and 27-31 are also allowable over Freivald, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to amended claims 18 and 26.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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